

May 18, 1973

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I suppose Senator Stahmer would be as good as anybody as a...a...to answer this question for me. Now, what we are suggesting is the fact that we analyze the bids that come in as a legislative body?

SENATOR STAHMER: We analyze the entire budget, and this is one similar item. I think that it is no different than many of the other items that we analyze when we adopt or reject any item or combination of the items in the budget.

SENATOR LEWIS: No, let me get this straight as far as what I know about it, and I apologize for my lack of knowledge, but we generally allocate funds for a specific purpose. But have we generally been involved in the business of analyzing the bids that complete that purpose?

SENATOR STAHMER: If I could I would like to approach that from this angle. When we had for instance the request before us for telecommunications I opposed the state entering telecommunications and buying a lot of equipment to become obsolete. I think that in this respect and perhaps it is not good reasoning, I think that I am being consistent in that by being cautious and staying with the leader makes sense. When you are talking about equipment and companies that and some of which are on the board of getting out of this business and I think that it simply is of up most extreme importance that this state try to insure itself that we are dealing with machinery that will number one not become obsolete over night and number two that the manufacturer will remain in business and that we can in the future deal with him and have replacements etc. where in some of these companies I think that there is some doubt.

SENATOR LEWIS: May I continue Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: Go ahead Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Now, I would like to know our expertise in the area of computers and I will be the first to admit my lack of knowledge. Are we going to make that judgment on the bind on the recommendation of the budget committee or are we going to analyze it out here?

SENATOR STAHMER: I would guess that if we adopt Senator Carpenter's resolution if and when such time bids are taken any such Senator or group of Senators committees, or combinations or what would have it within their prerogative to ask for counsel advice etc., from whomever they wish. And in your opinion and the committee that you are on or anyone else in the body. If they gather information that suggests that we ought follow course X then I'm sure you would vote that way. Otherwise you could follow a different course, there would be nothing to prohibit you from making an analysis of the situation once that time arrives.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak Senator Fellman, Cavanaugh, then Richendifer.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Mr. President, I would like to ask a couple of questions of Senator Stahmer, if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, do you yield?

SENATOR STAHMER: Yes, I would yield, but are you sure you don't want to ask Senator Carpenter.